Dp
Happy Birthday
#SteeZombie!

Dp
Happy Birthday
Makai Thief!

Mune ga Kowaresou

Hanamura Ichika

Pubhsher
Shinshokan

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HOW DID I..
..EVER THINK LIKE THAT?
NAO WON'T BECOME ANYONE'S PROPERTY
THE POSSIBILITY..
"I DO HAVE FRIENDS OF MY OWN, YOU KNOW."
"..SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER YOURSELF WITH MY BUSINESS ANYMORE."
..OF NAO CHOOSING SOMEONE..
OTHER THAN ME OR HARUKI..
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING WHEN HE'S NOT EVEN MY LOVER OR ANYTHING
AFTER ALL THE POSSIBILITY OF HIM CHOOSING ME IS ZERO

HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO CRY
"N-NO"
"THIS BELONGS TO... HARUKI"
DOES HE LOVE HARUKI THAT MUCH?
IN FRONT OF ME
HE SHOULD JUST CRY AS MUCH AS HE WANTS

WHY CAN'T I BE THE ONE FOR YOU?

"HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE."
...HE'S IN PAIN BECAUSE HE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HARUKI?
OR COULD IT BE THAT...
WHEN WILL THAT BE?
WILL IT BE WITH A WOMAN?
OR... A MAN?
...AND FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
I WONDER IF YOU WILL FORGET ABOUT HARUKI...

HE WILL ALWAYS BE REMINDED OF HARUKI
"I'M ALWAYS IN SO MUCH PAIN."
"WHEN I'M WITH YOU,
BECAUSE WHEN HE'S WITH ME,
AND IT'S ENTIRELY MY FAULT THAT HARUKI...
THAT'S WHY YOU...
...DID SOME-THING LIKE THAT
IS HE ANGRY? IS HE HURT?
AM I IN THE WAY AFTER ALL?
creak

WILL HE
DO IT WITH ME?
THINGS LIKE
KISSING
AND MORE
I WONDER
IF YOU AND HARUKI
HAVE DONE IT BEFORE
EVEN IF IT'S JUST PHYSICALLY?
CAN I BE HARUKI'S REPLACEMENT,
I'M SO DESPICABLE...

Riiiing
Riiiing
Riiiing
Riiiing
Riiiing
YES, I'M COMING
HELLO?
beep
THIS IS THE OGAWA RESIDENCE
Um
This is Usui
YES.
HUH?
USUI-SAN? ARE YOU PERHAPS
MIDORI-SAN?

WHERE'S YOU?
NAO,
YOUR FATHER WILL BE LATE AGAIN TODAY SO BE SURE TO EAT YOUR DINNER FIRST, OKAY?
HE SAID HE'D BE HOME LATE..
AH THAT'S RIGHT, NAO-CHAN
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM YOU-KUN?
HUH?
Akeuchi Yuuki?
YOU KNOW MIDORI-SAN..
YOU-KUN'S MOTHER??
EVERYONE SAID THAT SHE DISAPPEARED AND COULDN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED
I think her health deteriorated quite a bit
IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN CONTACTING YOU-KUN A LOT RECENTLY

I THINK MIDORI-SAN WANTS TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU-KUN AGAIN
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIT MENTALLY UNSTABLE,
IT SEEMS LIKE HER HEALTH IS REALLY BAD RIGHT NOW
Judging from the sound of her voice
I didn't know
I MEAN SHE WAS AN AWFULLY SELFISH PERSON
BUT I GUESS WE CAN'T STOP YOU-KUN IF HE WANTS TO LIVE WITH HER IT'S THEIR PROBLEM AS MOTHER AND SON AFTER ALL.
So we can't interfere as outsiders
BUT I AM STRONGLY AGAINST IT!
WHAT?
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!
YOU IS
GOING TO DISAPPEAR
FROM MY SIDE?
NO
I DON'T WANT THAT
OH, AND ABOUT OBON..

...TO HARUKI-KUN'S FIRST OBON, RIGHT?
BUT BOTH OF YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED...
YOUR DAD AND I WILL BE GOING TO YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S HOUSE
HARUKI-KUN'S REMAINS...
THEY'VE DECIDED TO CREMATE THEM
SO SO SAY YOUR FINAL FAREWELL PROPERLY OKAY?
...WHAT?
...ARE LE..VING ME.
...AND YOU...
BOTH HARUKI...
EVERYONE HAS FOUND THEIR ANSWER
... AND IS MOVING FORWARD.
I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING LEFT BEHIND

thud
thud
thud
clack
bang
WHAT..
..ARE YOU DOING?
..YOU'RE LATE

...
...
...
BECAUSE I'M WORKING MORE HOURS AT MY PART-TIME JOB
YOU
ARE YOU PLANNING TO LEAVE... THIS HOUSE?
I HEARD
THAT YOU
HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH YOUR MOM LATELY...
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO HAS HURT YOU BEFORE
HOW DID YOU...?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO
LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOUR MOM AFTER YOU LEAVE THIS HOUSE?
"IN THIS HOUSE I'M AN OUTSIDER, AFTER ALL."

SO WHAT IF I DO?
I DON'T HAVE TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH YOU ANYMORE, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT
WHEN I'M WITH YOU
I'M ALWAYS
YOU DOESN'T WANT TO BE WITH ME ANYMORE?
I SEE
I GUESS YOU'D RATHER
BE WITH YOUR OWN MOTHER THAN STAY WITH OUTSIDERS AFTER ALL. SHE'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU

MAYBE
. . . .
I ALSO...
WANT TO BE CARED FOR BY THE PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO ME
I WANT TO BE LOVED BY THEM..
NO MATTER WHAT,
I...
I...
YEAH

NAO,
WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
IT'S OKAY IF YOU KNOW
I
EVEN IF YOU DON'T LOVE ME
IT'S OKAY
EVEN IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP
AS LONG AS YOU'RE BY MY SIDE...
I WANT TO CONTINUE WHAT WE DID LAST TIME...
I WANT TO...

I WANT TO BE... HARUKI'S REPLACEMENT
FOR YOU..
CAN SOMEONE LIKE ME
STILL BE OF SOME USE TO YOU?
IF SO,
WILL HE STAY HERE.. BY MY SIDE?
..RE YOU TELLING ME...

..TO BE HARUKI'S REPLACEMENT FOR YOU!?
NO MATTER WHAT I DO I STILL CAN'T BE THE ONE FOR YOU HUH?
IN THAT CASE
I WON'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE
ALL RIGHT
EVEN IF I AM ONLY A REPLACEMENT
AS LONG AS I CAN TOUCH YOU
AS LONG AS YOU CAN BECOME MINE

HAVE YOU DONE IT WITH HARUKI BEFORE?
OR DID HE DIE BEFORE YOU GUYS GOT THE CHANCE TO?
AH
twitch

EVEN THOUGH...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE IN BED.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
YOU... CAN...
...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...
THE THINGS THAT YOU WANTED TO DO...
EVERYTHING HE WANTED TO DO TO HARUKI HE CAN DO TO ME
tug
slip

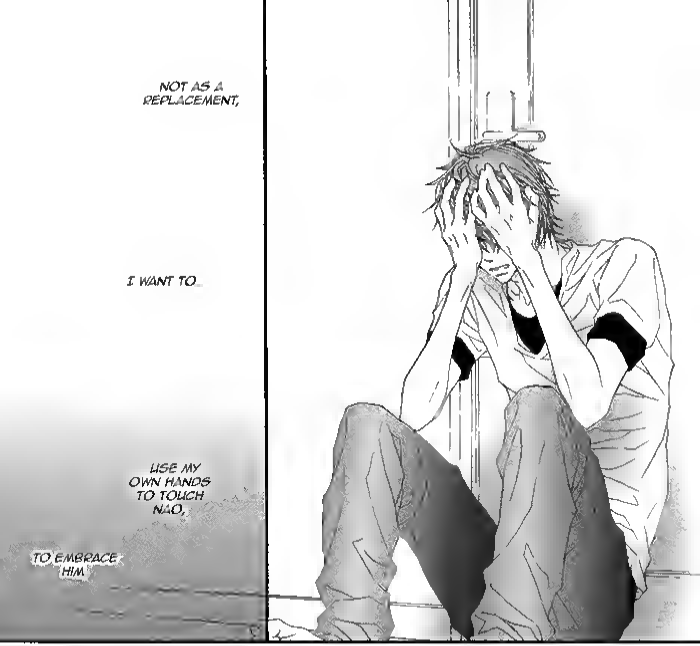
THAT'S RIGHT...
THE ONE NAO DESIRES IS NOT ME.
Squelch
YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
YOU WON'T EVEN LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE.
HNN
AH
RIGHT NOW,
MY HAND IS HARUKI'S HAND.
HN
HNN
HAA
IF THAT'S THE CASE
NO MATTER WHAT I DO
I CAN NEVER BE HARUKI
CLOSE YOUR EYES

SHUT THEM.
HNN
I KNEW IT IT'S NO GOOD
BUT
squelch
squelch
HNN UGH
BECAUSE
YOU IS THE ONE
TOUCHING ME

slide
NO...
BECAUSE...
I LOVE HIM.
HAA...
AHH...
EVEN THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO BE "HARUKI" RIGHT NOW
I'M SO HAPPY THAT I'M TOTALLY FEELING IT
HNN
AHH
BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.
THIS FEELING OF PLEASURE MAKES ME SO SAD

SORRY
hic
hic
I'M SORRY
IT WAS NEVER MY WISH...

...TO MAKE YOU TO CRY LIKE THIS
AS EXPECTED I CAN'T DO IT...
clack
bam


NOT AS A REPLACEMENT,
I WANT TO...
USE MY OWN HANDS TO TOUCH NAO,
TO EMBRACE HIM
TO BE LOVED BY HIM
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

WELL THEN
I'LL BE SURE TO TELL GRANDMA THAT YOU'RE DOING WELL HERE, YOU-KUN
WE'LL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW
PLEASE HELP TAKE CARE OF NAO TILL THEN, OKAY?
Seriously, is he still sleeping? That child

knock
knock
NAO...
IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO TO HARUKI'S HOUSE...
clack

"AS EXPECTED, I CAN'T DO IT."
I'M SURE...
THAT YOU WILL LEAVE THIS HOUSE AND MY SIDE
BUT IF DOING SO...
...MAKES YOU HAPPIER,
THEN I...
"IF I'M NO LONGER AROUND,
"AND I'LL RELY ON YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM TOO OKAY?"
JUST RELY ON YOU TWICE AS MUCH, OKAY?"
I'M SO SORRY, HARUKI.

AH...
AS EXPECTED I'M NO GOOD AFTER ALL.
There's nothing I can do
NAO?
Sniff
I FORGOT SOME-THING
I left the offering at home
YOU CAN GO ON AHEAD.

slam
AH...
I'M REALLY SO USE-LESS...
Ring
Ring
Ring
Ring
Ring
Ring
OH... The phone
clack
HELLO, THIS IS THE OGAWA RESIDENCE.

WHAT?
HE'S TAKING SO LONG
JUST WHAT IS HE DOING?
clack
HEY
NAO?

thud
thud
thud
clack
NAO
NAO?!